

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for facilitating transactions in goods or services, the system comprising:

means for ~~allowing~~ electronic procurement of a purchase order agreement between a seller and a buyer and relating to a transaction in one or more goods or services, and for electronically storing the purchase order agreement;

means for ~~allowing~~ electronic modification of the purchase order agreement upon agreement by the seller and the buyer to the modification;

means for receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications;

means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications;

means for electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications; and

means for receiving and storing electronic evidence that the buyer has made one or more payments in connection with fulfilling buyer's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications,

wherein the means for ~~allowing~~ electronic modification of the purchase order agreement comprises means for ~~allowing~~ electronic negotiation between the seller and the buyer relating to the ~~modification~~ modification;

the system is configured to recognize different seller agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement;

the system is configured to recognize different buyer agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement; and

the means for electronic modification of the purchase order agreement upon agreement by the seller and the buyer to the modification is configured so that proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, and accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, are permitted based on the respective buyer and seller agents' rights.

5-7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the means for storing electronic records indicating any proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement and any accepted modifications to the purchase order agreement comprises means for storing an indication of a chronological order in which the any proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement and the any accepted modifications to the purchase order agreement occurred.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the means for storing electronic records indicating any proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement and any accepted modifications to the purchase order agreement comprises means for storing, for reference, information identifying an entity responsible for each of the any proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement and each of the any accepted modifications to the purchase order agreement, wherein the information identifying an entity comprises an electronic signature of the entity responsible for each of the any proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, comprising means for the system evaluating whether a first set of payment guarantee criteria are met, and means for, if the first set of payment guarantee criteria are evaluated to be met, the system providing a payment guarantee to the seller to guarantee payment by the buyer in connection with the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the first set of criteria comprises at least one of a credit exposure of the buyer being evaluated by the system to be within a specified maximum credit exposure, and the seller being evaluated by the system to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications comprises means for electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with ~~at least a portion~~ a part of the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications, and wherein means for electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications comprises means for electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the ~~at least a portion~~ part of the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications.

14-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for facilitating transactions in goods or services, the method comprising:

~~allowing~~ electronic procurement of a purchase order agreement over an electronic communication network between a seller and a buyer, the purchase order agreement being stored

electronically on a computer-readable storage medium and relating to a transaction in one or more goods or services;

~~allowing~~ electronic modification of the purchase order agreement upon agreement by the seller and the buyer to the modification;

receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement;

electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement; and

receiving and storing on a computer-readable storage medium electronic evidence that the buyer has made one or more payments in connection with fulfilling buyer's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any ~~modifications~~ modifications,

wherein, different seller agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement;

different buyer agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement; and

proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, and accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, are permitted based on the respective buyer and seller agents' rights.

19-23: (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for facilitating transactions, comprising:

electronically storing on computer-readable storage medium a purchase order agreement between a seller and a buyer relating to a transaction in one or more goods, services, or both;

receiving ~~and storing~~ over an electronic communication network a modification to the purchase order agreement;
electronically storing the modification on computer-readable storage medium;
receiving ~~and storing~~ electronic evidence that the seller has performed at least part of an obligation of the seller defined by the modified purchase order agreement;
electronically storing the electronic evidence on computer-readable storage medium;
electronically evaluating whether the seller has fulfilled the obligation of the seller; and
upon determination that the seller has fulfilled the obligation of the seller, providing a payment instruction to the ~~buyer-buyer~~.
wherein, different seller agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement;
different buyer agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement; and
proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, and accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, are permitted based on the respective buyer and seller agents' rights.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
receiving and storing electronic evidence that the buyer has made one or more payments in connection with fulfilling the buyer's obligations as defined by the modified purchase order agreement.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein receiving and storing the modification comprises:
communicating a proposed modification of at least one term of the purchase order agreement between the buyer and the seller;
receiving an acceptance of the proposed modification; and

modifying the stored purchase order agreement to be consistent with the accepted modification.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
prior to communicating the proposed modification, electronically verifying that the proposal is made according to rights of at least one of the buyer and the seller.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
storing a plurality of proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement based on the order in which they are communicated between the seller and the buyer.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
storing an indication of the entity responsible for proposing the modification.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
upon determining that a set of payment guarantee criteria are met, providing a payment guarantee to the seller to guarantee payment by the buyer.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the set of payment guarantee criteria comprises a credit exposure of the buyer being within a specified maximum credit exposure.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1, wherein different seller agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, and wherein different buyer agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement,~~ claim 4, the system further comprising:

means for storing an electronic proposal of a first modification only in accordance with rights associated with the user attempting to implement the first proposal;

means for storing a first electronic acceptance of a proposed modification only in accordance with rights associated with the user attempting to implement the first electronic acceptance,

means for receiving an assignment of the different rights of the different seller agents from a system administrator within an organization of the seller through the computerized system, and

means for receiving an assignment of the different rights of the different buyer agents are from a system administrator within an organization of the buyer through the computerized system.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1,~~claim 4, wherein the means for ~~allowing~~ electronic negotiation comprises means for ~~allowing~~ a first one of the seller and the buyer to communicate to a second one of the seller and the buyer one or more first proposed modifications to one or more terms of the purchase order agreement

34. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1,~~claim 33, wherein the means for ~~allowing~~ electronic negotiation comprises means for ~~allowing~~ the second one of the seller and the buyer to communicate to the first one of the seller and the buyer an action selected from the group of accepting the first proposed modifications, declining the first proposed modifications, and communicating to the first one of the buyer and the seller one or more second proposed modifications.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1,~~claim 33, wherein the means for ~~allowing~~ electronic negotiation comprises means for modifying the purchase order agreement in accordance with any modifications that have been proposed by the first one of the seller and the buyer and accepted by the second one of the seller and the buyer, and in accordance with any modifications that have been proposed by the second one of the seller and the buyer and accepted by the first one of the seller and the buyer.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~, claim 4, wherein the means for ~~allowing~~ electronic negotiation comprises means for storing, for reference, electronic records indicating any proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement and any accepted modifications to the purchase order agreement.

37-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving an assignment of rights of a first seller agent to a second seller agent from a system administrator within an organization of the seller through the computerized system.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving an assignment of rights of a first buyer agent to a second buyer agent from a system administrator within an organization of the buyer through the computerized system.

41. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving an assignment of rights of a first seller agent to a second seller agent from a system administrator within an organization of the seller through the computerized system.

42. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving an assignment of rights of a first buyer agent to a second buyer agent from a system administrator within an organization of the buyer through the computerized system.

43. (New) A computer-readable storage medium, bearing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps including :
procuring a purchase order agreement between a seller and a buyer and relating to a transaction in one or more goods or services;
storing the purchase order agreement;
modifying the purchase order agreement upon agreement by the seller and the buyer to the modification;

receiving and storing electronic evidence that the seller has performed in connection with fulfilling the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications;

electronically evaluating whether the seller has complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications;

electronically providing a payment instruction if the seller has been evaluated to have complied with the seller's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications; and

receiving and storing electronic evidence that the buyer has made one or more payments in connection with fulfilling buyer's obligations as defined by the purchase order agreement as modified by any modifications,

wherein the modification of the purchase order agreement comprises negotiation between the seller and the buyer relating to the modification;

different seller agent users have different rights with regard to proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement;

different buyer agent users have different rights with regard to electronically proposing modifications to the purchase order agreement and electronically accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement; and

the proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, and accepting proposed modifications to the purchase order agreement, are permitted based on the respective buyer and seller agents' rights.